

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-19 and 21-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-19 and 21-23 are amended and claims 5, 10 and 20 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

**I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

**A. §102(a) Rejection**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7-17, and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,984,358 to Nelson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 10 and 20 are canceled and thus the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claims 1, 7-9, 11-17, and 21-23 are not anticipated by Nelson. Nelson does not disclose a method of fabricating a semiconductor device that includes "(d) forming conductive layers which are electrically connected to the electrodes, each of the conductive layers provided from the first surface through an inner wall of one of the through holes and one of the holes to the second surface of the semiconductor element, the conductive layers being formed to include connecting portions so that a distance between at least two electrodes is different from a distance between the connecting portions on at least one of the first and second surfaces, in the step (d)," as recited in amended independent claim 1. Further, nowhere does Nelson disclose a method of fabricating a semiconductor device that includes "forming holes in the electrodes," as recited in amended claim 1.

Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, claim 1, and claims 7-9, and 11-17 and 21-23 depending therefrom, are not anticipated by Nelson. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**B.     §103 Rejection**

The Office Action rejects claims 2-6, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nelson.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 is canceled and thus the rejection of this claim is now moot.

Claims 2-4, 6, 18 and 19 would not have been rendered obvious over Nelson. Claims 2-4, 6, 18 and 19 depend from claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, claims 2-4, 6, 18 and 19 are patentable over Nelson. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

**II.     Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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